

BAR-BENCH-MEDIA COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 15, 1993

- I. Approval of Minutes**
- II. Appraisal of February 26, 1993 Program**
- III. Other Business**
- IV. Discussion of Election of New Officers**
- V. Next Meeting**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAR - BENCH - MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Thursday, April 15, 1993 at 1:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court Conference Room in Wilmington. The meeting was opened to the public. Notice of the meeting had been posted. No members of the public were in attendance. The members of the Conference in attendance were:

Members from the Print News Media

Ms. Rita Katz Ferrell
Mr. John Taylor

Members from the Electronic News Media

Ms. Marilyn Buerkle
Mr. Allan R. Loudell
Mr. William D. Osborne
Mr. Michael Sigman

Members from the Bench

Judge Jay Paul James
Judge Roderick R. McKelvie

Members from the Bar

Howard M. Handelman, Esquire

William Osborne, the Vice Chairman of the Conference, chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order. The Committee expressed its

condolences to Vice Chancellor Jacobs on the death of his mother-in-law and to Franny McGuire on the death of her father.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Judge McKelvie reported that the seminar subcommittee had met the previous week to evaluate the seminar and discuss the disbursement of funds. After reimbursing public defenders who paid the full fee to attend the seminar, reimbursing Jim Flood for any of his costs, and reimbursing any speaker for remaining expenses, the Conference voted to return any remaining funds to the Humanities Forum.

The Conference discussed the seminar at length. The general view was that the seminar was a success, but improvements could to be made. The major criticisms were: (1) the panels were too large, (2) not enough time for audience participation and questions, and (3) presenters did not adhere to the format and moderators did not hold them to their time.

The Conference discussed how to proceed on the issue of expanded media coverage of Delaware courtroom proceedings. It was decided that there were not enough Conference members present to have a balanced, in depth discussion. Therefore, the issue is to be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Mike Sigman raised the issue of equal access to the areas adjacent to the

courtroom for all media entities. Mike reported that television cameras were required to be stationed outside the Herrmann Courthouse while news representatives with tape recorders could interview people as the people were exiting the courtroom. The result was that the people who were interviewed inside the courthouse did not want to repeat the interview for television cameras outside the courthouse. Mike felt that the Conference needed to discuss the issue. The Conference agreed to put the issue on the next agenda.

The terms of the members of the Conference were discussed. It was noted that many terms had officially expired, and other terms would expire either just before or just after the next meeting. The members of the Conference suggested that each member group review the terms of its members and take the necessary steps to reappoint existing members or to appoint new members. It was suggested that the Conference consider adopting a policy that current members holdover after their terms expire until they are either reappointed or replaced. The Conference decided to discuss the term proposal at the next meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Bill Osborne scheduled the next meeting of the Conference for Thursday, June 10, 1993 at 1:30 p.m. for the Family Court Conference Room in Dover.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen D. Taylor
for Rosemary Willian

Date: May 25, 1993